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MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. V FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 1944 No. 32

Nowhere is more being done than in the South

H.E. SIR CLAUDE AUCHINLECK

THE training of our men to be soldiers and the moulding of our material resources into the form required for a military area is the task which is allotted to the India Command

I am satisfied that this work is proceeding apace. Officers and men of the services, civilians in war industries, women in the services and those engaged in voluntary work—we want more of these women,—all are playing their part This does not mean that we cannot do even more than we are doing. We can do more still and we must

MY recent visits to the presidencies and States of Southern India leave me convinced that nowhere is more being done than in the south. I wish to congratulate all concerned. Certainly, we must not dream of slackening off The end of the war is not yet in sight, in my opinion

H.E. Sir CLAUDE AUCHINLECK, Commander-in-Chief, India, in a statement from New Delhi, on Monday, after his South Indian tour

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[NOTE.—*The summary of news and comments contained in the* MADRAS WAR REVIEW *generally relate to events and statements published till Wednesday, every week.*]

NO COMPROMISE WITH AXIS

"There can be no compromise with Fascism and Nazism. It must go, everywhere. They can expect no negotiated peace, no compromise, no opportunity to return. Our foreign policy is comprehensive, is stable and is known to all men as President Roosevelt has said. Neither he nor I has made, or will make, any secret agreement, or commitment, political or financial. We are moving closer and closer to the hour of decision. Only the fullest measure of wisdom, unity and alertness can enable us to meet the unprecedented responsibility."

MR. CORDELL HULL, *United States Secretary of State, in a broadcast talk, on Sunday, April* 9.

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WE HAVE NO FEAR OF JAPANESE

"We have no fear of the Japanese. They are trying their usual tactics of infiltration, but now we have got their measure. They tried these tactics in Arakan eight weeks ago. Four or five thousand of their men got through, but we closed the line behind them and wiped the whole lot out. They are trying the same thing again now, but our military authorities are satisfied that they have the situation well in hand, and I have no doubt we are justified in placing our confidence in them."

SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON, *India's Representative in the War Cabinet, in London, on Monday, April* 10.

◆

PROUD TO HAVE WINGATE'S FORCE

"We are proud to have Wingate's Force as part of the Fourteenth Army. Major-General Wingate had sparks of genius in him. As a man of action he excelled, and he was truly dynamic. The force he built is his own. No one else could have produced it. He designed it, he raised it, he trained it, he led it, he inspired it, and finally placed it where he meant to place it—in the enemy's vitals. In all this he would have been irreplaceable, but he has accomplished his greatest work. He has forged the weapon: others may now wield it. From the force itself come his successors, imbued with his will and his vision."

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL W. J. SLIM, *Commander of the Fourteenth Army, on Thursday, April* 13.

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THE SOVIET MASTER PLAN

REFERRING to recent Russian operations, *Reuter's* Correspondent in Moscow says that each step in the Soviet master plan is falling methodically into place. First of all, on the extreme right wing, the Red Army is thrusting the Germans back into the Carpathian defiles, and in the centre it is pressing on towards the Ploesti oilfields in Rumania. Secondly, German forces in the Crimea are being driven from one defence line to another, as the converging armies under Generals Tolbukhin and Ermenko move from the north and the east. Odessa has been captured and the Kerch peninsula is completely cleared of the enemy. Thirdly, on the diplomatic front, M. Molotov's statement has stolen the thunder out of Dr. Goebbels' anti-Bolshevist propaganda, and the liquidation of Japanese concessions in North Sakhalin and the amendments to the Fishing Convention of 1928 mean that Soviet policy in the Far East has been brought into line with the policy of Britain and the United States. All these great events have happened in such quick succession that their importance is being blurred by the fastness of the pace of time.

LET us first take the progress of the Red Army into Rumania. As expected, the Germans put up a stiff resistance in the area through which the railway from Rumania to Odessa runs. When the Red Army was at the gates of the great naval base on the Black Sea, von Manstein was driven to the position of holding the railway running west to Tirasapol at all costs, to avoid encirclement of about 100,000 German troops in the south-west corner of the Ukraine. The German General was anxious to keep open the Tirasapol-Odessa railway line of retreat, and that was why he made a desperate stand against Marshal Koniev's drive southwards. It was not an easy task that faced von Manstein, for he had to keep the Russians off this important railway, and at the same time ward off the danger which threatened Tirasapol itself. He failed in both.

Fall of Odessa

ODESSA, the largest and most important port on the Black Sea and the third largest city in the Ukraine after Kharkov and Kiev, was captured by Marshal Malinovsky's troops as the result of a skilful bypassing movement by infantry, cavalry and mechanized formations in conjunction with a frontal attack. The Germans held extremely advantageous positions at the approaches to the City. They were protected to the east and north by waterways and estuaries as well as by numerous ravines. They had converted the narrow bottleneck between the Odessa-Kuyalnik and Khadzhibeisk estuaries into a powerful defensive zone with anti-tank ditches, block-houses, minefields and barbed wire entanglements. They did not want to find themselves with their backs to the sea, and so they retreated and shifted their resistance to the bottleneck. Marshal Malinovsky then launched a frontal attack on the enemy, and forced the Kuyalnik estuary and also struck at the Germans from the flank. Simultaneously, Odessa was outflanked by mobile units, tanks and motorized infantry, which rapidly advanced southwards to the sea coast and reached the western and south-western outskirts of the city at midnight. There was fierce fighting throughout the night and the result was that the port which was in German hands for two and a half years was at last liberated after an attack which may well rank among the great battles of history.

VON MANSTEIN also failed in his attempt to prevent Tirasapol falling to the hands of the Red Army forces. This town was an important German stronghold on the railway from Odessa to the Bessarabian capital of Kishinev. How important this town was in the enemy's defences on the Dniester can be gathered from the report that in the fierce fighting that took place Germans were hunted out from house to house.

Manstein's "Bolt Position"

COMING to Marshal Zhukov's front, we find that the capture of Cernauti at the foothills of the east Beskit Mountains, which form a range of the Carpathians proper, placed the Red Army forces in a very favourable position for striking southwards into Rumania or driving westwards towards the great German base at Lwow. It seems from recent happenings that Marshal Zhukov has, strengthened by the fact that Marshal Koniev has effected junction

with his forces, decided on both these courses. His plan seems to be to drive westwards along the Carpathians, which offer good a cover to the left flank of the advancing Russian armies, and outflank Lwow from the west.

AS regards the southward Russian drive into Rumania proper, Zhukov may push down south along the Siret river in the general direction of Galatz while Koniev strikes at Jassy from his positions at Balti. This would make von Manstein establish a "bolt position" between Sarat and Galatz with a view to preventing the armies of Zhukov and Koniev from rushing into the plains where lie Bucharest, the capital of Rumania, and the coveted oilfields of Ploesti.

ON the diplomatic front, M. Molotov's statement makes it clear, as Mr. Wickham Steed has pointed out in his broadcast from London last Friday, that the Russians are noted not only for military, but also for political wisdom. The statement dispelled two favourite notions that Goebbels had been sedulously propagating, that Russians wanted to Bolshevise Europe and that they would stop fighting as soon as they finish pushing the German armies out of Russia.

Liquidation of Oil and Coal Concessions to Japan

ANOTHER success in the diplomatic field is the transfer to Russia of Japanese oil and coal concessions in Northern Sakhalin. It may be recalled that on April 13, 1941, a Neutrality Pact was concluded between Russia and Japan. Simultaneously with the signing of this Pact Mr. Matsuoka, the Japanese Foreign Minister, and M. Molotov, Soviet Commissar for Foreign Affairs, exchanged letters, according to which Japan promised to liquidate the concessions given to her in North Sakhalin. Mr. Matsuoka declared in his letter that Japan would strive "in the course of a few months to settle the question of liquidation of concessions in North Sakhalin acquired under the treaty." One and a half months later (May 31, 1941) Mr. Tatekava, the Japanese Ambassador in Moscow, made a new declaration, on behalf of Mr. Matsuoka, confirming the arrangement. In this declaration Mr. Matsuoka said, "I am once more ready to assure you of my firm intention to settle without fail the question of liquidating concessions in North Sakhalin not later than six months from the date of my promise, as I declared in Moscow."

SO normally Japan ought to have liquidated the oil and coal concessions referred to, by October 1941, but she did not carry out her undertaking. This is evidently because after Germany's attack on Russia in June 1941 Japan believed that all would soon be over with Russia and that therefore there was no need for her to keep her promise. But neither the German plans nor the Japanese expectations fructified. The Red Army's marvellous successes brought about a sober view of the situation. This came in the autumn of 1943 when the Japanese Government recognized the desirability of negotiating with Russia in connection with the liquidation of the Japanese concessions. Negotiations were resumed, and a fortnight ago (March 30), a Soviet-Japanese agreement was signed providing for the liquidation of the concessions and the discharging of the obligation assumed by the Japanese Government under the Neutrality Pact signed three years ago.

THE oil and coal concessions which have been liquidated were, while they lasted, extremely important to Japan and the benefits accruing therefrom had become all the more valuable on account of the war. Japan got a considerable quantity of petroleum from North Sakhalin which is estimated to be about one-fourth of her peacetime domestic requirements. As per the new agreement Japan has transferred to the Soviet Union all the installations, machinery materials, spare parts, means of transport, etc. It may be added that the concessions given to Japan have been liquidated 26 years ahead of the time stipulated in the contract.

Until Pacific War is ended

ANOTHER arrangement which is helpful to the Allied cause is the amendment made at the instance of the Soviet Government in the Fishing Convention of 1928. Japan has undertaken not to exploit the fishing concessions rented by her along the east coast of Kamchatka and Olutorski until the Pacific War is ended. The important point to be noted is that to-day Russia is strong enough to dictate her own terms to Japan in regard to concessions which Japan wrested from Russia when she defeated her in the Russo-Japanese War of 1904. The value of the new agreements lies in the fact that they, in the words of the Soviet paper *Izvestia* "testify both to the increased strength of the Soviet Union's position in international affairs, to the soundness of its foreign policy, and show that consideration has been paid for the special circumstances of the war situation in the Pacific as it affects our Allies."

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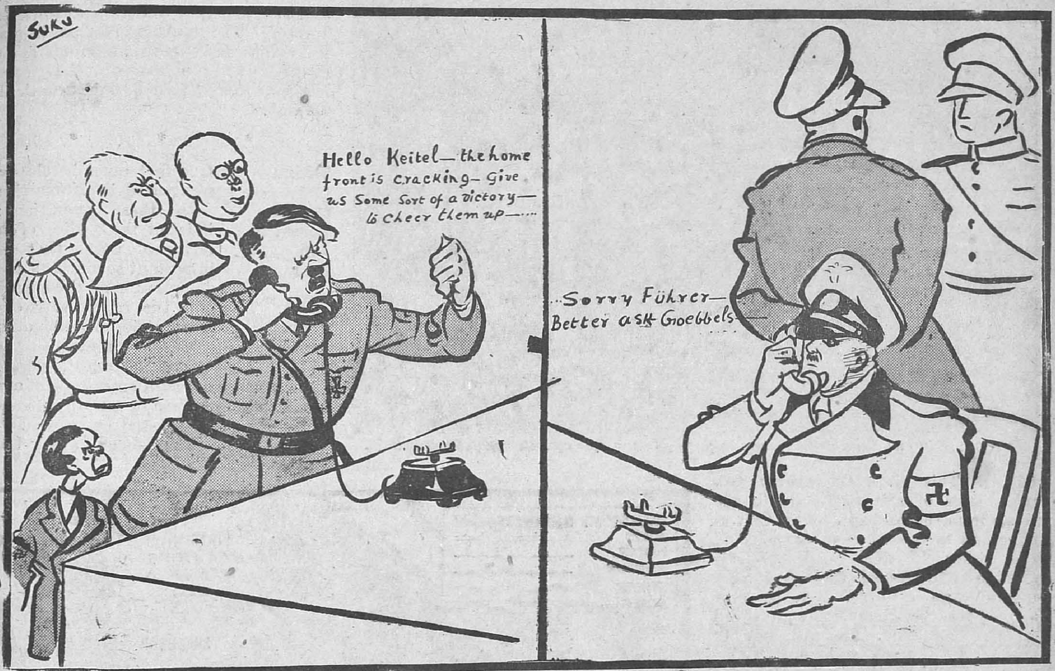
"BETTER ASK GOEBBELS!"



—*Specially drawn for the* MADRAS WAR REVIEW.

RUNNING COMMENTARY

Sir Firoz Khan Noon on Jap Tactics—Confidence in Allied Military Leaders

SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON, India's representative on the War Cabinet, has summed up clearly the present situation on the Assam frontier in an interview to *Reuter* on Monday, soon after his arrival in London. "We have no fear of the Japanese," he said: "they are trying their usual tactics of infiltration. But now we have got their measure." He referred to these tactics tried by the Japs in Arakan eight weeks ago and how the 4,000 and 5,000 of their men who got through were encircled and wiped out. "They are trying the same trick again," observed Sir FIROZ, "but our military authorities are satisfied that they have the situation well in hand, and I have no doubt that we are justified in placing our confidence in them." That the situation is satisfactory has well been stressed by General Sir CLAUDE AUCHINLECK who declared that he had no doubt "as to the result of the fighting now in progress." The Commander-in-Chief explained the position very clearly when he said:

> "We cannot stop every Japanese thrust as soon as it makes itself apparent, and it is therefore always possible that some of these may succeed in temporarily interrupting our communications . . . I am convinced, however, that the security of Assam has never been in danger, let alone the security of India."

* * *

Two Lines of Approach—The Enemy's Plan

Two of the Japanese thrusts towards India have been attempted because of the advantage furnished by the rugged mountainous line that forms the Indo-Burma

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I.A.F. SUPPLEMENT

With this issue is published as supplement an I.A.F. Illustrated Souvenir of 16 pages.

Some of the pictures published are "exclusive" to the *Madras War Review.*

Mr. Churchill and General Eisenhower inspecting United States paratroops in Great Britain.

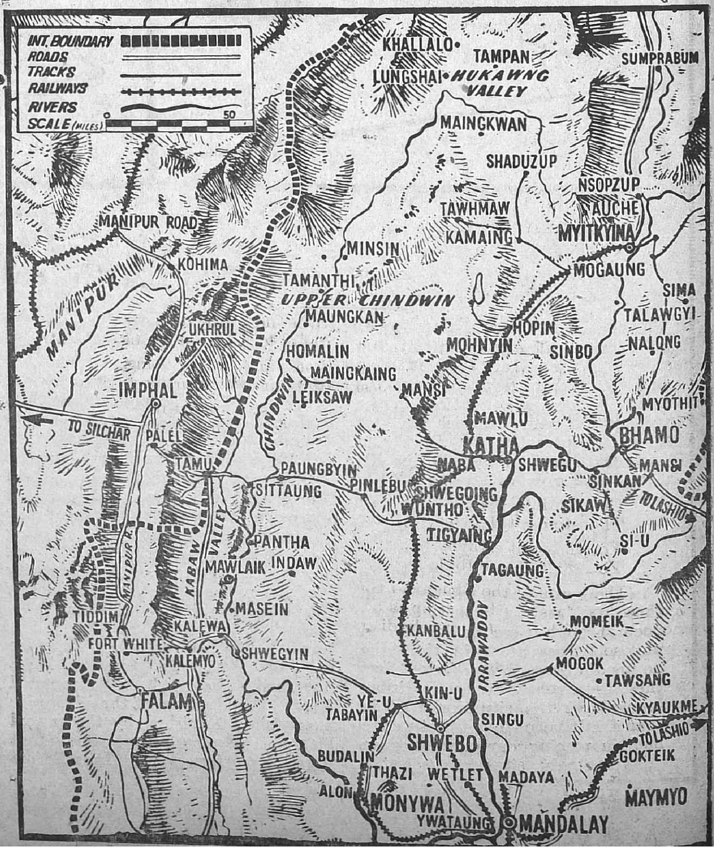
border. This gives the enemy two main lines of approach—one in the south from the Arakan towards Chittagong and the province of Bengal, and the other in the north towards Manipur and Assam through a very mountainous country. Two months ago (February 4), the enemy advanced on the first line. He promised to capture Chittagong and began doing propaganda that the Indian 5th and 7th Divisions had been "annihilated" and "re-annihilated." But what happened ultimately was that the "annihilated" Divisions captured the Jap stronghold of Buthidaung, to defend which the Japs sacrificed more than 3,000 troops. Now our troops are inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy who is trying to retain his hold on the 20-mile long hill road.

Having failed in his attempt in the south, the enemy tried the northern line of approach to India, and is endeavouring to penetrate the physical barrier of mountain and jungle stretching over 200 miles from the Chin Hills south of Imphal to the Somra Hills tracts east and south-east of Imphal. His object seems to be to establish himself in the Imphal-Kohima area before the monsoons come and then strike at our rail and road communication from Calcutta along the Brahmaputra into north-eastern Assam. It was for this purpose he sent troops to threaten Assam from the south-east and north-east. His intention in the south, *viz.*, the Tiddim area, was the same as that he unsuccessfully tried in the Arakan—to get behind our forward troops and cut our supplies. In the east, that is in the Tamu area, his object seems to be to cut our supply line first and then to make a direct thrust towards Imphal. The northern thrust begun from his main base at Homalin is directed at Kohima on the main Manipur road, about 60 miles north of Imphal.

* * *

Tiddim—Tamu—Imphal—Threat to Jap Rear

One fact must be clearly recognized in connection with these operations: it is not the holding of an advance post that is important so much as the destruction of the enemy forces. This was the reason why our troops withdrew from Tiddim and moved to meet the Japanese column which was trying to block the road from the north. The movement of another column of our forces from the north caught the enemy in between and inflicted heavy casualties. In the Tamu-Palel area, the



Japanese wanted to block our supplies, did not succeed. Their attempt has weakened the direct threat to Imphal. Now it is reported that after taking Tamu, Japanese forces are trying to advance closer to Imphal from the east and north-east. It seems as though they are underestimating our strength, for during the past few days every yard they have advanced has cost them very dearly in men and equipment.

As they advance forward towards Manipur, they will find they are falling short of supplies and be forced to detach troops to remove the threat in their rear caused by the presence of our forces which were recently landed in the Katha area, which are already destroying railways, river communications and other enemy supply organizations.

India's new Chief of the General Staff is Lieut.-Gen. J. G. des R. Swayna, C.B., O.B.E., who succeeds Lieut.-Gen. Sir Edwin Morris, K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C. transferred to a Command in the United Kingdom.

THE WORD OF KRISHNA

(*By* R.G.)

How spake Krishna to Arjun, the god to the hero doubting
Amidst the clashing arrays, the dust and the shouting,

The hero unequalled in arms but dread sin of killing
To bring on his soul through sudden compunction unwilling ?

Thus said Krishna to Arjun : The eternal purpose can never
By action be changed nor perverted, but changeless for ever

Calls man to his station and duty, calls warriors to heaven
Through warfare for honour and right ; nor is it forgiven

The fighter who shrinks from the combat, who lurks in a corner,
Dishonour his portion for ever, and sneers of the scorner.

Desire not, Arjun, reward nor power nor pleasure :
Your duty achieve for its own sake, itself is your treasure.

Your heart shall be steadfast and constant to virtue's one vision
If you fight without sorrow or hatred or fear or derision,

Happy in living and dying, succeeding or failing,
Not raucous in victory's hour, nor disaster bewailing,

In knowledge of truth and conquest of self-good achieving
The end of your labour and living, the prize of believing ;

Devoted, worshipful, faithful, your high heart, shall merit
With the souls of the righteous the heaven's peace to inherit.

Vishnu has granted you sight of the terrible beauty
Of the face of Knowledge and Purpose, the splendour of Duty.

In these rest and seek your perfection : above your own nature
Rise free from pride and delusion to fullness and stature.

There are men like demons, who truth and virtue denying
Their lust make their god, in a world of loathing and lying,

In their blindness the deeds of darkness and cruelty doing,
By arrogance bound, their desires to their death pursuing,

Boasting their gains and their plans, but still not sating
Their greed of destruction, and goodness hellishly hating.

Their doom is determined. But you, O Arjun, asunder
Stand from your fellows and linger away from war's thunder.

Get you into the field. To will it bravely is better
Than to do it denying your duty and feeling the fetter

You may not escape. Your nature and nurture fulfilling
You shall choose to do battle for right, or do it unwilling.

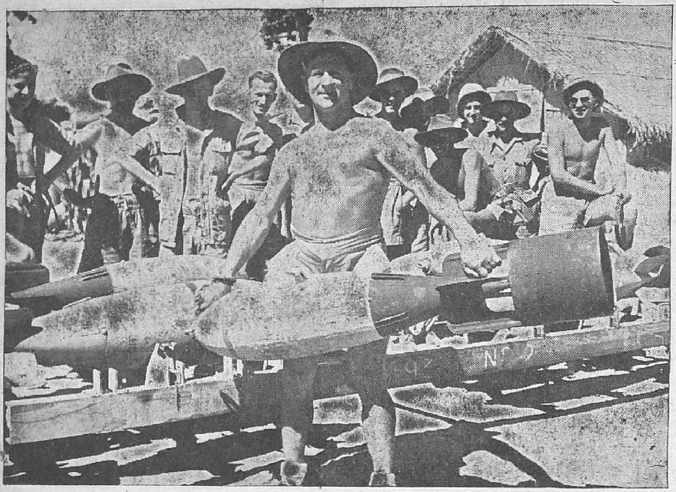
(The lesson of the Bhagavad Gita has been gravely misrepresented by those who wish to hold it up as a Gospel of Non-violence. The original poem, though it is now barely discernible under many layers of mystical philosophy and theology of later date, was an exhortation to Arjuna to do his duty and fight the enemy for the sake of righteousness. Though these lines are not a literal translation, they contain nothing that is not in the Bhagavad Gita, and put in a small compass a counsel given more than two thousand years ago but as relevant to the present war as if it had been written to-day.)

* * *

General Stilwell's Advance in Mogaung Valley

Another threat which the enemy has to fear is the advance of General STILWELL's forces in the far north-east. In spite of the counter-attacks of the Japanese, these forces have been steadily advancing down the Mogaung Valley and further east-west of the Chindwin below Sumprabum. At the time of writing the Chinese troops have advanced south of the Panglu River in the Mogaung Valley and contacted Japanese troops. Another column of Chinese troops is driving south in the hills west of the Mogaung Valley and has succeeded in dislodging the Japanese from strong positions south of Pumsin. As for the American troops, they are fighting in difficult terrain east of the Mogaung Valley, in the Kumon range.

It may be broadly stated that the operations on the Burma front now are more in the nature of securing vantage positions for the pitched battles to come than that of large-scale offensives. Whatever is happening now is only manœuvring of positions. The big fight is likely to come soon. It will be for Imphal. Our troops are ready and prepared to resist with all their might the enemy's attack on Imphal when it comes.



VULTEE "VENGEANCE" DIVE-BOMBERS IN BURMA.—Vultee "Vengeance" dive bombers are doing grand work in Burma. It is a Vultee "Vengeance" Squadron which has the best serviceability record of any operational squadron. In Burma after one very successful attack this squadron was complimented by the Army Commander who said: "Congratulations, bombing beat ever."

A well-known boxer, now in charge of the armoury of a famous Vultee "Vengeance" dive-bomber squadron, makes the lifting of a 250-lb. bomb appear easy. W/O A. Warren, of 4 Heighton Gardens, Waddon, Surrey, was recently awarded the British Empire Medal for outstanding work on armoured vehicles in the Middle East and for inventing a very successful incendiary bomb-container while in India.

AIR INVASION OF BURMA

By WING-COMMANDER L. V. FRASER

THE achievement of Royal Air Force and United States Army Air Force transport aircraft in landing thousands of armed men and equipment together with hundreds of pack mules, on narrow single strips laid in the heart of Japanese-held Burmese jungle to co-operate with General Stilwell's Hukawng Valley forces and American and Chinese troops opposing the 18th Japanese Division is an operation unequalled in any previous Allied campaign.

Royal Air Force aircraft formed the larger part of the transport force which was under American command of General Old who successfully landed the first Dakota 12 hours after the initial landing strip was laid. He was followed afterwards by Air Marshal Baldwin.

The limiting factor of jungle warfare has always been dependent on lines of communication. At best, they have never been very good—just rough roads quite unsuitable for heavy traffic. More often tracks have had to be cut through virgin jungle.

The size of the present operation demonstrates that a strong force of troops can not only be made independent of ground communication, but can be established and maintained in the wildest and most difficult tracts of enemy territory.

Never before has air transportation of fighting men and equipment reached a similar proportion nor has an infiltrating force been dropped so far behind the enemy's lines.

LANDING GROUND IN 12 HOURS

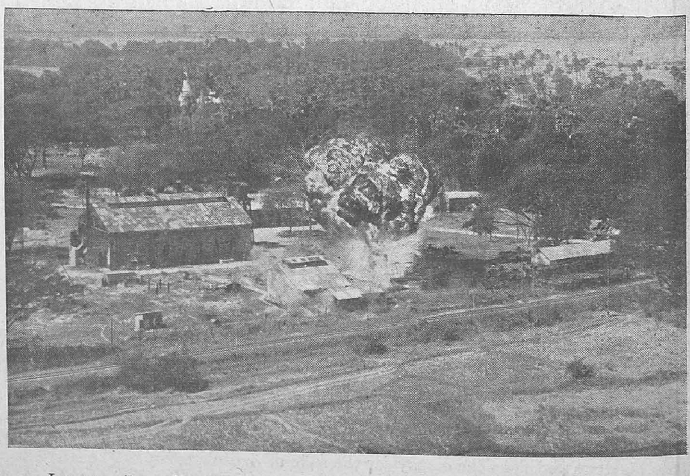
The story behind this operation as one of careful planning and skill in execution. The men were not dropped at random over hostile jungle territory, but landed on a narrow strip of airfield literally torn out of tropical forest. British and American troops made this possible by levelling out within 12 hours of their arrival a landing ground for the transport of aircraft.

By dusk on the first day after the arrival of advance ground parties (whose job it was to make the clearing serviceable), operations had begun in earnest. American glider pilots showed great skill in making these initial landings by moonlight.

RAIDING JAP AIRFIELDS

Even under these improvised conditions, Allied air superiority over the Japanese was soon demonstrated by the highly successful raid on a nearby enemy airfield. In the afternoon of March 8, Shwebe and other enemy-held airfields were raided by Mustangs pilots.

What can be termed air invasion of Burma has begun well despite all natural difficulties. Allied air forces may be expected to profit from the experience gained by repetition of those tactics.



Japanese oil supplies in Burma go up in smoke when Royal Air Force Beaufighters are around. Photo shows *an oil blaze started by Beaufighters in a recent attack on Thegon pump station some miles north-west of Moulmein near the mouth of the Sittang River. The explosive appearance of the fire suggests that the blazing oil is escaping from a pipe-line burst open during the attack.*

Subedar Subramaniam.

To

Jamedar KANNAYIRAM,
Extra Assistant Recruiting Officer,
Chingleput.

Sir,

As a war journal serving this Province, we venture to tender very sincere sympathy in your recent bereavement by the death in action of your son, Subedar Subramaniam. His loss is grievous not only to yourself and his other near relatives, but to the Province he belonged to and the Service he adorned.

You yourself, Sir, if we are not mistaken, hold in your own right, the respect of your friends and neighbours, and have an honourable career behind you, but it is not given to all such to sire a paladin, and we respectfully offer our congratulations on the fame which your late son has brought his family, district and Province, not only by the performance of his life but in the manner of his death.

Your son, Sir, was a Soldier. Not all soldiers are heroes—one who knows writes this. A good physique, a keen brain and a sense of duty makes a soldier, but it takes more than these to make a hero.

We recount the bald details of his noble story because they can never become too familiar. Four thousand miles away, in cold, muddy and battle-scarred Cassino, he saw a mine about to explode, to the inevitable destruction of a group of officers and men. With the rapid thought of a trained mind he realised the impossibility of removing the danger, and so threw himself upon the mine, deliberately and magnificently abandoning his own life for the salvation of his friends.

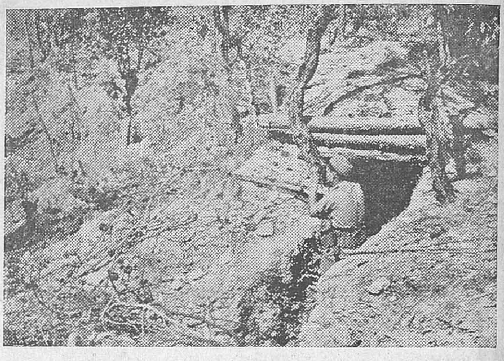
This short story to-day becomes a South Indian epic. May we hope that some Tamilian poet will hymn it, and 'bhagavatars' sing it to many generations, and may we also hope that the weight of your declining years may be daily lightened by the memory of a Madrassi who lived a soldier and died a hero.

Yours sincerely,

Editor, Madras War Review.

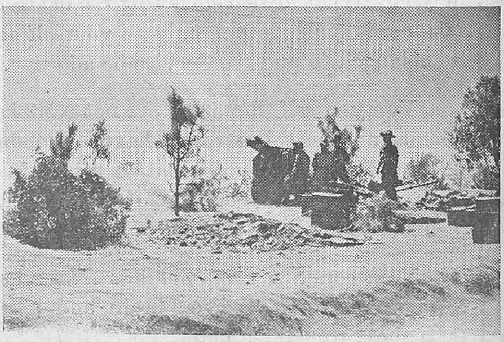
FIGHTING ON THE TIDDIM FRONT

Indian Signaller passes fire orders back to battery from forward Observation Post.

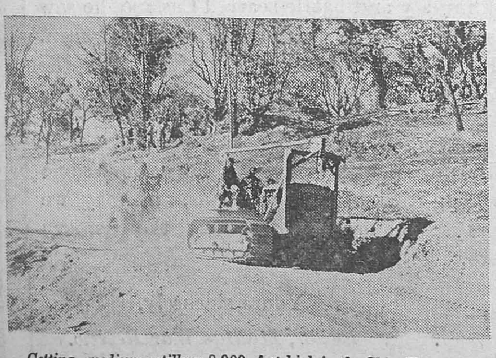


Dogra soldier mounts guard in communication trench that links former Jap bunker positions.

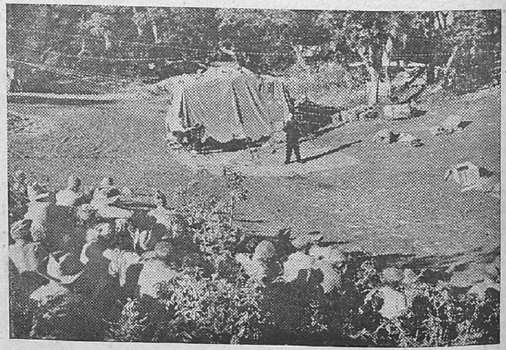
A medium gun firing at Jap bunker positions from its site high up the Chin Hills.



British 25-pounder field gun is seen in action against the Japanese.



Getting medium artillery 8,000 feet high in the Chin Hill sector is a major problem. Here Bull-dozer takes medium gun towards its battery position.



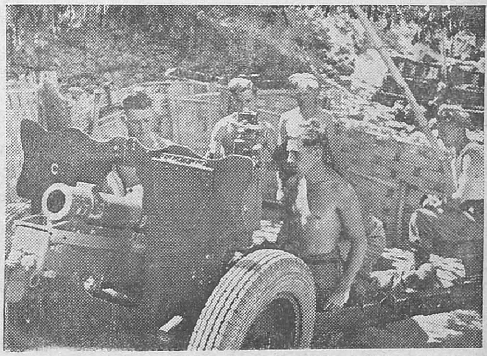
Rousters Concert Party. A.B.E.S.A. organization brought their sets to the gun site, occasionally being interrupted by guns firing from the actual post they were playing in.

THE SEVENTH DIVISION AT ARAKAN

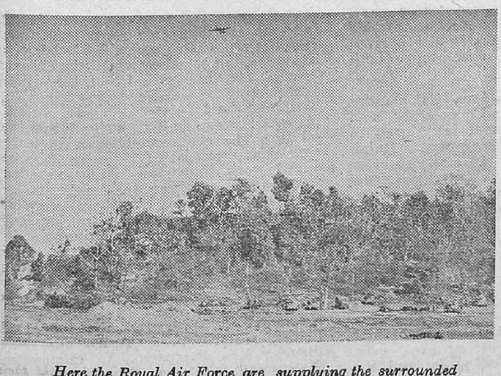
Jap prisoners receive humane treatment by Seventh Division doctors. Here one is seen having wounds dressed.

An ambulance convoy bringing wounded from Seventh Division after their relief, climbs over the pass.

Just another dead Jap. He met the Seventh Division.



A 3·7 howitzer, used for bombardment of Jap positions in Ngayedauk Pass, being loaded by Seventh Division gunners.



Here the Royal Air Force are supplying the surrounded Seventh Division by air.

Men of the Seventh Division Pte. John Bache of Wellington Somerset and Sgt. W. Meadows of Middlesborough, Yorkshire, retrieving air dropped supplies in the Seventh Division box.

WOMEN IN THE ARMY

"WHAT sort of a job are women in India doing to-day inside the Army?" The answer is provided in the steady growth of the Women's Auxiliary Corps (India) who celebrated their second anniversary on 9th April.

In Russia and China women are in the firing line so also many women in Nazi-held countries. In England women are in every form of industry and the defence services. That stage has not yet reached in this country. Yet, women all over India drawn from all communities are doing a man's job efficiently and perhaps a little more neatly for the inclination for tidiness is inherent in women—a quality which is being greatly appreciated in the vast intricate war machinery of to-day. Among some of the jobs women are doing are:—

General duty clerks.

Typists (stenographers).

Officers and Auxiliaries in Ordnance shops and ration stands.

Plotters and tellers on AA gun sites and in Royal Air Force filter rooms.

Ciphor personnel for the Army and Royal Indian Navy.

Photographic work for the Royal Air Force.

Store-keepers and accounts clerks in Ordnance depots.

Electrical and radio mechanics.

Signal duties.

GREAT TRANSFORMATION

A middle-aged outsider, who has closely watched their progress during 1943, gives a clear picture of transformation that takes place after a brief period of training:—

"In April last year, I saw off a big contingent of new recruits who were travelling to join the Women Auxiliary Corps (India). Some of the girls were particular friends of mine, most of them I knew by name and family, knew of their homes and schooling and of previous efforts to find employment. Much as I liked them, I wondered what the army was going to make of such very raw material. All were anxious and excited, wondering what the unknown future held for them. They were eagerly looking forward to good pay and interesting work, but rather dreading community life and discipline. Off they set, inefficient, anxious, but eager to learn and give of their best in the new service.

"I met most of them next on Christmas leave—and what a difference! The older women had lost that harrassed look of constant anxiety. The youngsters were neat, efficient, self-confident. They had acquired a poise and balance quite new to their race and generation. The part had toned down and the bashfull had toned up. Their clothes (whether in uniform or out) their hair, and especially their make-up, were so much better in quality and neatness, and worn with an air. Manners were much easier. They were ready to talk about their work with interest and pride, and those whose work was secret could say so without that mystery and self-importance which sometimes afflicts their seniors. Above all, they had realized that discipline is not an irksome, outside imposition intended to annoy, but a necessary part of communal living. A rule about the supply of food on a journey now is a rule for their comfort, not for their confusion.

"I have known and loved some of these girls since childhood, now I can also admire them. Chatting to them on Christmas leave, hearing how they have overcome difficulties, learnt much, played more wholeheartedly, worked with men without embarrassment, sent home regular money for the family or for saving, I feel vastly cheered. If all are going to acquire the poise of this batch of recruits in so few months, then the future womanhood of India is going to be much benefited by the opportunities given by service in W.A.C. (I)."

It is true that women in India have not joined W.A.C. (I) in such vast numbers as in other countries but it must be remembered that in a country where women seldom went out to work, they are to-day not only replacing man-power but all getting a training which will materially assist them in post-war reconstruction in which women in this country must play a prominent part.

It may be interesting to note that in the Southern Army area alone there are over 2,500 W.A.C. (I)s, 1,800 in the Army, 700 in the R.A.F. section and 200 in the R.I.N. section. Of the total number in India, over 7,000, nearly half are Indians.

W.A.C. (I) SECOND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN MADRAS

MEMBERS of the Women's Auxiliary Corps (India) celebrated their second anniversary with a ceremonial parade on Sunday evening at the Island ground. Quite a number of the W.A.C. (I)'s were unable to be present as they were on duty, but the numbers that did attend were considerable. Both the Army and Royal Air Force sections were well represented and the Royal Indian Navy section attracted special attention by their smart white uniforms.

The whole ceremonial was quite impressive, the Women Auxiliary Corps' marching to the accompaniment of the band of the Madras Guards opposite the Munro Statue where the salute was taken by the Sub-Area Commander.

Quite a large number of troops in and around Madras together with many officers lined the route to cheer and honour the representatives of India's youngest service. There was also a large collection of civilian spectators both men and women.

On arrival the Sub-Area Commander was received by Senior Commander Mrs. M. A. Dyson, M.B.E. and introduced to the Platoon Commanders, Mrs. Rajah Urs and Miss Everett. In a speech after inspecting the W.A.C. (I)'s the Sub-Area Commander congratulated them on the smartness of their turn-out and on the numbers they had been able to muster. Describing the W.A.C. (I) as one of the most devoted forms of service he said one ought to be proud of and consider it an honour to join it in its efforts against the enemies of India and all civilization. The Sub-Area Commander added that as the war went on, the need for recruiting in even increasing numbers would grow and the W.A.C. (I) could assist in a number of ways in the common cause, namely, release more and more men for the battle against the Japanese. He was certain Madras would watch the progress of the W.A.C. (I) with sympathy and interest.

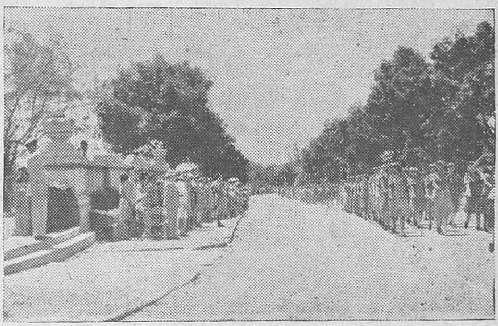
After the parade the girls were given tea by the Madras Hospitality Committee Mobile Canteen. The same night All-India Radio, Madras, by arrangement with Public Relations, Southern Army broadcast an extremely entertaining feature programme on the W.A.C. (I), a representative selection of W. A. C. (I)'s coming before the miscrophone to give their impressions and talk of their experiences. The highlight of the feature was an observer's account of the March Past (recorded on the spot) by Mrs. C. W. Spencer.

BANGALORE PARADE

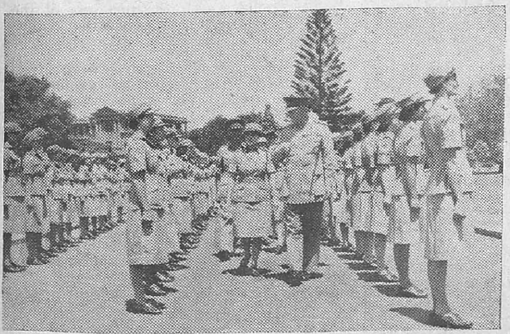
A fitting tribute was paid to the two-year old Women's Auxiliary Corps (India) on their second Birthday at Bangalore on Sunday when the General Officer Commander-in-Chief, Southern Army Lieutenant-General Sir Noel Beresford-Peirse, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., inspected them on parade and took the salute. The army commander in a few well chosen words told the corps what useful work they were doing releasing manpower for service in the front line. His only regret was that there were not enough women in the corps and he would like to see each one getting another recruit. He complemented them on their smart turn out. A large gathering witnessed the parade and among the distinguished persons present were the Diwan of Mysore. The Honourable Resident of Mysore, Lady Beresford-Peirse, Major-General Bruce and Mrs. Bruce, Mrs. Berwick, A. Commodore Mackworth, Collector Morris and area and sub-area commanders and senior officers of the Southern Army. The band of the Madras Sappers and Miners was in attendance.

W.A.C. (I.) ANNIVERSARY PARADE AT BANGALORE

The G.O. C-in-C., Southern Army, Lieutenant-General Sir Noel Beresford Pierse, taking the salute.

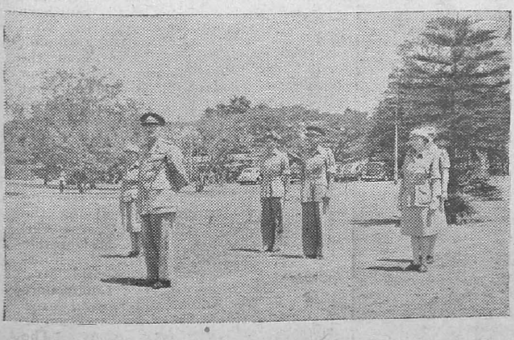


The March-past.

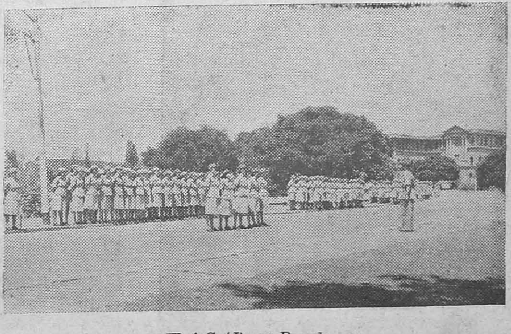


The G.O. C.-in-C. inspecting a platoon.

The G.O. C.-in-C. talking to a group of W.A.C. (I.) Officers.

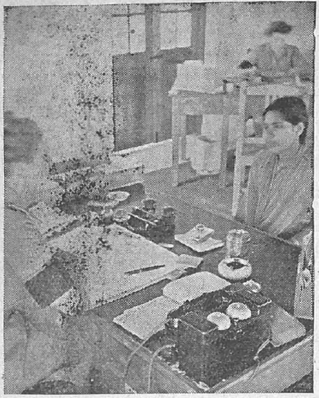


The G.O. C.-in-C. addressing the corps.



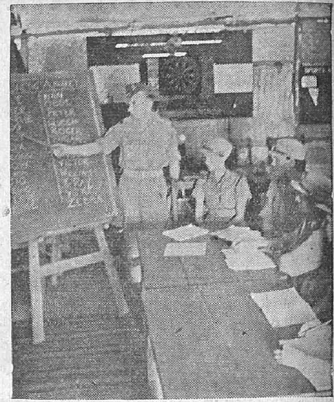
W.A.C. (I)s on Parade.

W.A.C. (I) AT WORK



A new recruit interviews the Recruiting Officer.

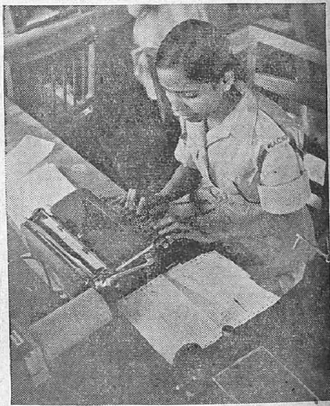
A Squad marching to work.



Attending class—learning phonetics for signal work.

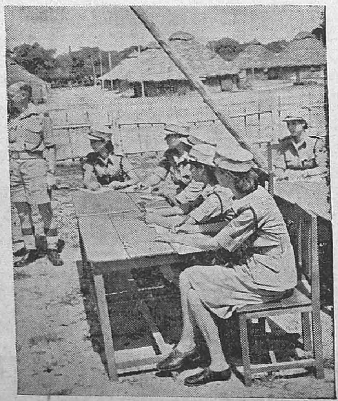
Telephone Exchange operator.

A W.A.C. operating a wireless set.



Fully trained Indian girl at a tele-printer.

Passing operational traffic on tele-printers.



Open air class and instructor.

Off duty—practice hockey.

OPENINGS IN THE ROYAL INDIAN NAVY

By AN R.I.N. OFFICER

THERE are many misunderstandings about life at sea. India is a large country with an extensive coast-line. Until recently India has depended upon the Royal Navy to protect this coast and her shipping, but now India has built a large and efficient Navy of her own. A Navy manned by Indian sailors to protect India's commerce and India's coasts; a Navy of which India is justifiably proud. The Navy has many branches one of which is the communication branch. The communication branch is responsible for signalling and wireless. No ship can operate without communications. In the Navy for near messages signals are made by flags and lamps; but the bulk of communication is by wireless. The Indian Navy is responsible for all communications in the Eastern area, Indian Personnel man all W/T stations from Africa, Persian Gulf, Red Sea, the coast of India as far as Singapore, when we have driven out the Japanese. The responsibilities of communication ratings are very great; therefore it is necessary to have young men of intelligence and education who can speak, read and write English well as all communications are in English. It is *not* necessary to have passed matric; but men who have reached matric standard are required.

WIRELESS

Before the war wireless played a terrific part in world affairs. During the war it is vital. After the war wireless will play an even larger part. A great industry will grow up in India. Factories will develop to manufacture commercial sets; broadcasting stations will be established for news and entertainment. A large army of employees will be required in this industry. There is no finer way of learning this trade than in Royal Indian Navy. Thereby fitting yourselves for good employment in an expanding industry. During war new inventions are continually being made; these are put at the disposal of the Government only. Therefore only service men are able to learn about these new inventions, e.g., television, etc.

All communication ratings are trained in Bombay, their training lasts about six months. In Bombay there is a fine Signal School. Considerable thought and expense have been devoted to making this the finest establishment possible. This is the only Naval Signal School outside England: the men have a fine training here. Everything is done to make them comfortable and happy. Because the training is of technical nature it is mostly done in class room. Therefore to keep the sailors healthy, sports and games are encouraged, foot-ball, hockey, cricket, volley-ball, boxing, swimming are all played. They are not compulsory.

Many people say that life of a sailor is hard; here is the routine in the Signal School. We get up at 6-30, do 40 minutes P.T., then wash, shave, dress and fall in for inspection. After inspection we march to music to the class room for instruction. Instruction finishes at 4 o'clock with a break of one hour for midday meal and 15 minutes for refreshment at 11. After 4 one's time is one's own and one may play games, write letters, go out to pictures, etc. If one asks a sailor what do you do when you go on liberty. Do you see friends? Do you go for a walk? Do you go to the pictures? and often one gets the reply, "Sir, I never go on liberty. Everything I require is in the Signal School." The School has a new canteen in which the daily and weekly papers are supplied *free*. A library *free*. It has frequent concerts, cinemas and entertainments *free*. In the canteen, tea, cigarettes and other necessities are obtainable. *No free*. So it is not necessary to go out.

WHY THE NAVY?

A Royal Indian Navy Officer says:—

"I have interviewed over 2 thousand recruits individually. I always ask them the same question, why did you join the Royal Indian Navy and I have received a number of strange replies. The other day a recruit told me he joined the Royal Indian Navy because he quarrelled with his mother-in-law. But the majority join for one of two reasons, (1) to learn a useful trade, (2) to lead an adventurous and healthy life and a desire to see the world. There is no finer education than seeing other countries, other nations. In peace time, wealthy men spent crores of rupees on travelling, not only on business but simply to broaden their minds and to understand the problems of other nations and so be able to solve their own difficulties. I know of no other way in which a young man can see the world than with the Navy; and be paid for doing it. India's ships are mostly built in United Kingdom, Australia, and even America. These ships are brought to India by India's sailors who are sent to these countries as passengers; they spend some weeks waiting for their ships to be finished.

"During this time they are entertained by the people. All sailors returning from these expeditions tell of the good times they have had. When a rumour spreads that a ship has to be brought from abroad we receive hundreds of applications to go and bring it. In England there is conscription; they know there is no conscription in India. They know that the men in the Indian Navy are volunteers, consequently they admire and respect them and show them every hospitality.

FOOD

"It has been suggested to me that the food in the Navy is not good; recently the rations have been altered, two kinds of rations are served, vegetarian and standard. Every effort is made to give our men what they want. Twenty men eat at a table. . We recently had a committee meeting. Representatives from each table made suggestions of what the men wanted. These suggestions were carried out. They wanted fish. They received fish every Friday. They do want beef. Only mutton is now served. Nuts or fruits are served on Sundays and every sailor receives a glass of fresh milk, every day. At each meal an officer goes through the dining rooms to enquire for any complaints. For five months I have had no complaint about the quantity, quality or cooking of the food. I always have complaints such as 'please sir, this man has taken one of my chappatties.'

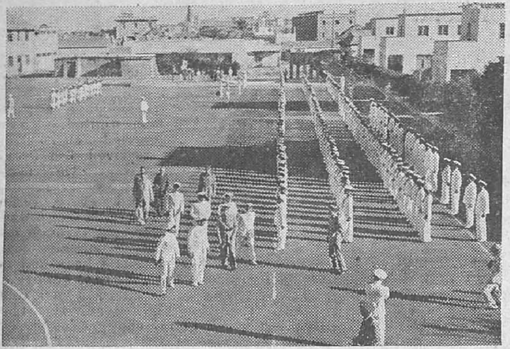
"Naturally it is in our interest to protect the health of our sailors; so a medical officer is in attendance, he can be seen at any time. At 8 o'clock there is a sick parade and any sailor who is sick is excused duty until he is better.

PAY

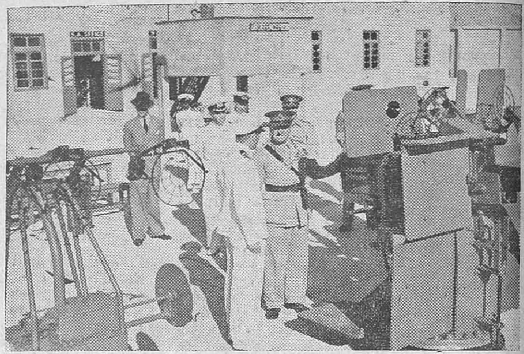
"Now I come to the question of pay. A communication rating receives a starting pay of Rs. 60. When considering this you must realize that over and above this cash payment, he receives his accommodation, his clothing, his food and most of his entertainments. Consider a young man who finds civilian employment away from his native place. He must pay rent, he must buy food, he must buy clothes, he must pay bus fares. This cannot be done for less than Rs. 60. So at a modest estimate Rs. 60 in the Navy is equivalent to Rs. 120 in civilian employment. 'Sailors do not care.' A sailor does not care if the price of rice goes up, a sailor does not care if the price of cloth goes up, a sailor does not care if the price of cinema seats goes up. Our men are paid once a month. In a long room they receive their money at one end, and then they pass along the table at which are seated the dhobi, the tailor, the cobbler, the barber, etc., and at the end there is a small table with two post office clerks taking money order forms to send home to their families. A large number of sailors send Rs. 40 home to their families every month. There are young men in the Signal School of 18 who are supporting their widowed mothers, younger sisters and educating their younger brothers.

"Soon you will be finishing your school life, you will have to decide what you are going to do with your future. I hope that some of you will consider joining the Royal Indian Navy, taking this golden opportunity of leading a healthy, care-free life, learning a useful trade, seeing the world and having immediate financial independence. At present I want a large number of young, keen, intelligent, educated men between the ages of 17½ to 24 who can speak good English."

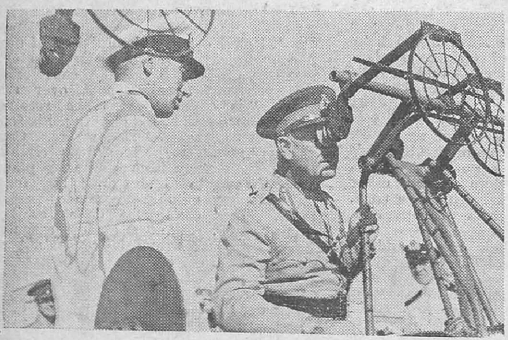
LORD WAVELL VISITS R.I.N.



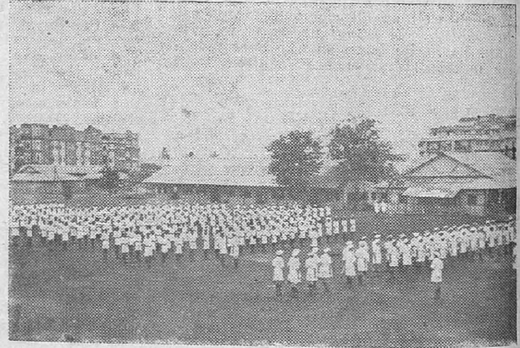
A contingent of Bahadur *Boys stands to attention as His Excellency the Viceroy is taken round the extensive parade ground of* H.M.I.S. Bahadur.



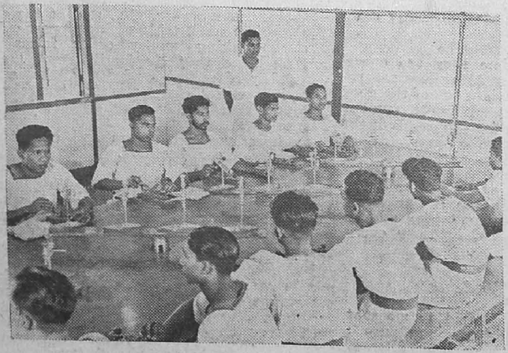
At the High Angle School which forms a part of H.M.I.S. Himalaya, *His Excellency inspected all forms of naval guns and equipment, in the use of which officers and men are given practical training.*



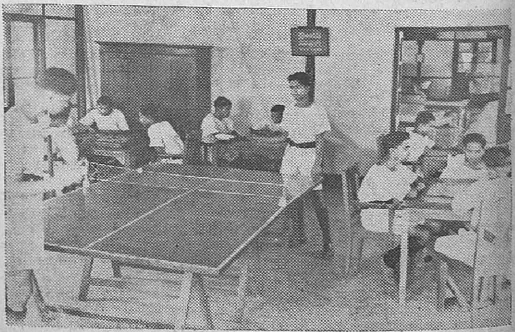
His Excellency the Viceroy looking through a Sight Trainer at the High Angle School.



R.I.N. ratings doing P.T. exercises.



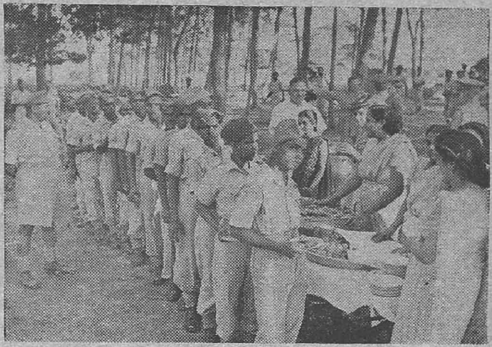
Ratings attending an instructional class.



Here you see ping-pong game in progress; and various other indoor games, like chess, draughts, etc.

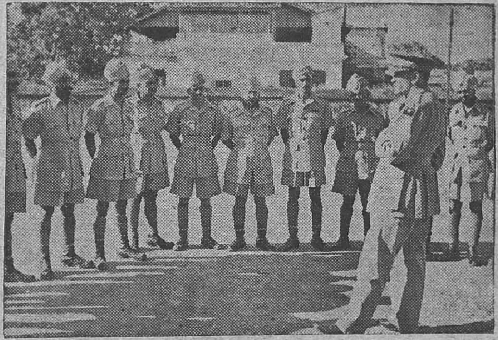
C.-IN-C.'s VISIT TO MADRAS

General Auchinleck is seen presenting the O.B.I. to Subedar Samuel of the R.I.A.S.C. whose home is in Vepery, Madras.



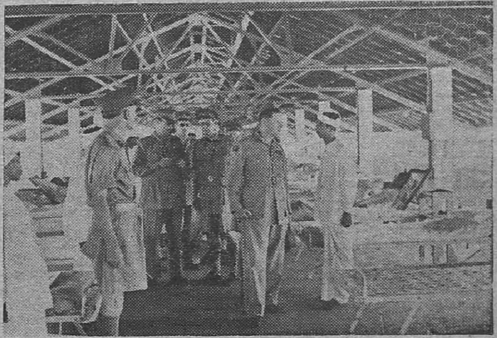
General Auchinleck displayed considerable interest in the welfare work done for Indian troops and is here seen watching the work of a mobile canteen run by Lady Hope, Mrs. Clubwalla and other ladies of Madras, which distributes tea and cakes.

From a 'Jeep' he watched a combined army and airforce exercise and discussed points of tactics with the officers.



The Commander-in-Chief is addressing officers and V.C.O.'s of a Punjab Regiment in Madras.

During a combined army airforce exercise, General Auchinleck chatting with the officers while the troops were resting.



The Commander-in-Chief is seen inspecting a military hospital near Madras.

DISPLAY OF WAR WEAPONS TO LEGISLATORS AT COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S HOUSE.—Members of the Central Legislature and high ranking Allied officers were entertained by the Commander-in Chief, India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck and Lady Auchinleck at a garden party on Sunday, March 19, when they saw a comprehensive display of modern war weapons as used to-day by India's Armed forces.

Colonel Irving DOCH of the Chinese Army is shown the interior of a tank by Major H. I. Ahmad of the Indian Armoured Corps.

CHINA' S CONTRIBUTION

By R. SURYANARAYANA RAO

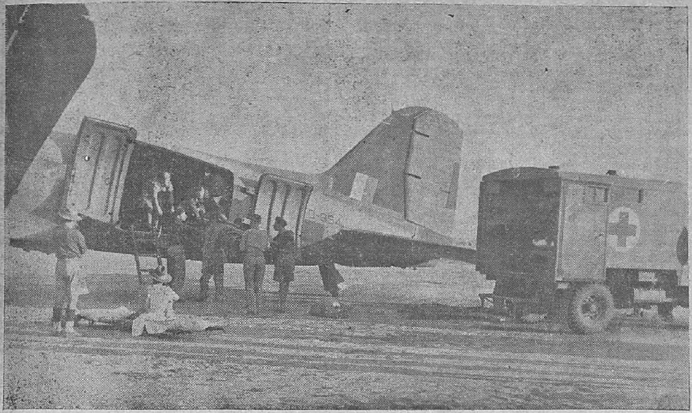
WHEN the din of battle ceases, when the roaring of guns is heard no more, when the armies in the various theatres of war equipped with the latest and most powerful instruments for human destruction lay down their arms and when the representatives of the victor and the vanquished nations sit at the Peace table to settle the future of the world, who is more qualified to take a leading part in the deliberations than China? Whose voice would carry more weight and command greater attention than that of China? It should be remembered that China has been waging war since 1937 drawn into it by the unprovoked aggression of Japan. The Axis partner who has now become a dangerous menace to the peace in the Far East spared no effort to carry on mischievous propaganda and to some extent succeeded in deceiving the gullible world into believing that she was justified in violating the spirit and intent of the Nine-Power Treaty by which the powers solemnly agreed 'to respect the sovereignty, the independence, and the territorial and administrative integrity of China,' on the plea of China's increasing revolutionary diplomacy which, it was alleged, was as dangerous as the Red Menace. Some among those who now form part of the United Nations failed then to appreciate China's real role as a brave opponent of the ruthless Japanese menace. Now bitter experience has made everyone recognize what a menace Japan has really been and how valiantly China has been fighting these six years and more without becoming dispirited by the failures incidental to such a prolonged struggle. It may not be wise to anticipate what the verdict of history would have been on the unprovoked aggression of Japan if the dominant Axis Powers in Europe had not declared war on the Allies in the West.

'When peace reigns, the spirit of a nation can only be passively displayed; in war it shines out in its full magnificence, especially when the war is against aggression and in defence of all that has become dear by the sanction of immemorial tradition and by the instincts that lie closest to the human heart.' In these words the writer of the Foreword, who is not himself Chinese, introduces the book *China—After Five Years of War*. In his opinion these words have been true of China. China was quite unprepared for the test. She had just emerged from a long and severe process of what may be called 'blood-letting,' and was about to enter upon the difficult task of restoring 'national health.' The Civil Government which had suffered considerably was in the process of restoration. Disintegration which had stood in the way of the establishment of a Republican Government had been overcome and measures for integration had been launched. Just at that time Japan struck a blow which if China had not resisted would have meant her complete subjugation. She would have been another Korea or at best a glorified Manchuko Empire. What China's fate would have been, can also be gauged from the sad plight of the present puppet regime—the Nanking Government. What is the gravemen of the charge so assiduously trotted out for long, and into the truth of which no nation, not even the League of Nations, dared to probe and take a firm stand, but which also is now seen in its true perspective? China was accused of promoting anti-Japanese education, of encouraging anti-Japanese organizations engaged in inciting and even intimidating the mass into hating Japan and of pursuing in general anti-Japanese policy of provocation and instigation. These charges are the acme of vagueness and appear to any unprejudiced observer more plausible than real and framed after the so-called incident staged to create a cause of action. The well-rehearsed incident at Marco Polo Bridge on the night of July 7, 1937, was made an excuse for wanton aggression for which Japan was anxiously waiting in order to take advantage of China's unpreparedness.

China has much to teach every nation at war. She not only decided to make her supreme war effort but also decided to continue the task of building up a social and political system which would qualify her for a place among the Great Powers of the world, a task to which she would have devoted perhaps much more thoroughly if she had been left in peace. Even in well-organized communities the task of post-war reconstruction has been thought of only recently and during the first years of the war, concentration was only on war effort. Even Mr. Churchill is forced to warn that everything may not be perfect, or that if the end of the war came suddenly, there may be an interval when things might be pretty rough. China's 'is costly wisdom that is bought by experience' accompanied by suffering, privation and death. This wisdom will be her valuable contribution at the Peace Table. She realizes more than any other nation the blessings of peace and order, value of the Freedoms of the Atlantic Charter, and total abolition of war and settlement of disputes by discussion and arbitration. Her bitter experience has taught her what the poets have truly said,

> " Peace hath victories,
> No less renowned than war " and
>
> " The arts of peace are great
> And no less glorious than those of war."

She demonstrates to the world how by infinite patience and resolution and calm confidence, even appalling difficulties and set-backs can be overcome. Hers has been the glory to suffer the heaviest blows long before her allies were drawn into the vortex. She is therefore an ancient 'enemy' of one of the most barbarous and brutal Axis powers; she has more experience of sufferings of war caused by ruthless foes, and she has realized the importance of building up peace-time institutions or so set up organizations for war work as to switch them on for peace-time tasks without causing even the least disturbance.



BURMA FRONT—WOUNDED EVACUATED BY AIR.—British and American pilots are co-operating in evacuating wounded by air from the Burma Front.

Wounded soldiers being carried aboard an evacuation plane. The casualty in the foreground has apparently already recovered sufficiently to take an interest in proceedings.

WAR DIARY

BRITAIN AND GERMANY

4TH APR.—Mr. Churchill stated in the Commons to-day that the British Empire casualties during the first four years of war were 667,159.

On a direct appeal by Viscount Cranborne, Dominions Secretary, the House of Lords to-day postponed its debate on the application of the Atlantic Charter to Germany.

5TH APR.—Sir Archibald Sinclair, Air Minister, said in the Commons that R.A.F. Bomber Command has dropped 48,000 tons of bombs on Germany during the first three months of 1944 compared with some 2,400 tons dropped by the Germans on Britain.

Air Marshal Sir Richard Peck, Assistant Chief of the Air Staff, R.A.F., declared that British and American airmen are now battling to convert air-superiority over German territory proper into air supremacy over Hitler's fliers there.

The German battleship "Tripitz" was probably put out of action by British naval planes.

6TH APR.—The British Minister for Fuel and Power made a statement on the coal situation.

The Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Allied Airforce, General Ira C. Eaker declared "Germany has never been in such strained circumstances as now."

7TH APR.—Mr. R. Stettinius, United States Under Secretary of State, has arrived in London with a number of important officials from his country.

Hitler has appointed Dr. Goebbels to be the sole head of the administration of Berlin.

Last night Mosquitos attacked Hamburg and objectives in the Ruhr and Rhineland.

8TH APR.—U.S. bombers attacked Brunswick as well as aerodromes in north-west Germany. About 1,250 planes participated in the attack.

Germany has begun the flooding of 80,000 square miles of the north sea coastline in France and Belgium.

9TH APR.—The German Finance Minister, Count Ludwig Schwerin Von Krosigk warned the Germans that new taxation may be necessary to ward off the threat of inflation.

Allied bombers attacked Essen and other objectives in west and north-west Germany last night.

A joint statement by Mr. Churchill and President Roosevelt on the U-boat warfare in March is issued to-day.

It is reported that Hitler has been conferring with German political and military leaders at Berchtesgaden during the past two days.

10TH APR.—The United States' Under Secretary of State, Mr. Edward Stettinius and the American Ambassador in London, Mr. John Winant, had long discussions with Prime Minister, Churchill, yesterday.

Mosquitos bombed Mannheim and other objectives in Western Germany.

11TH APR.—The Supreme Commander-in-Chief, Allied invasion forces, General Eisenhower, told pilots that the time was coming when they would be needed to fly from dawn to dusk.

Heavy airbattles took place over Hanover and Brunswick. Allied planes attacked targets deep inside Germany including Oschersleben and Bernger.

Hitler is said to have conferred at Berchtesgaden with Mussolini, M. Antonescu, the Rumanian Premier, M. Sztojay, the Hungarian Premier, M. Laval, the French Premier, Vidkun Quisling of Norway, Pavelitch, the Croat Quisling, Dr. Hacha of Bohemia, and the Jap Ambassador in Berlin.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

5TH APR.—President Roosevelt is still recuperating from bronchitis and was confined to his study.

Mr. Cordell Hull announced that the United States has been working with Britain to prevent Portugal from sending wolfram supplies to Germany.

6TH APR.—The U.S. Navy Secretary, Colonel Frank Knox, said that the Allies may expect "soon" a mass attack by German U-boats against North Atlantic shipping. "German submarine production has by no means stopped" he added.

The U.S. Foreign Economic Administrator, in an appraisal of Germany's economic strength, says that the mobilized economic strength of the United Nations is now overwhelmingly greater than the Nazis and the sheer weight of the Allied striking power makes victory certain.

7TH APR.—President Roosevelt at his press conference answered questions relating to French Liberation Committee and Armistice terms with Italy.

8TH APR.—The first month of the invasion of Europe will cost the U.S. Forces a maximum of 150,000 casualties according to tentative estimates by American departments. The Chairman of the House of Representatives, Military Affairs Committee, Mr. Andrew J. May gave this figure.

9TH APR.—President Roosevelt has joined in efforts to unite the Democratic party.

The United States' Secretary of State, Mr. Cordell Hull, in a broadcast talk outlined United States' foreign policy.

10TH APR.—It is announced that President Roosevelt has left Washington for a fortnight's rest.

* * *

INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

4TH APR.—Chinese forces are progressing in the Mogaung Valley, says to-day's South East Asia Command Communiqué.

5TH APR.—Enemy pressure has been felt at various points along the whole of the Assam front. Enemy attacks on positions near Imphal were repulsed.

Mr. Attlee, the Deputy Prime Minister, disclosed in the Commons to-day, that agreements had been made for the appointment of an experienced body of scientific advisers to the headquarters staff of each of the three fighting services in the South East Asia Command.

6TH APR.—Jap plans to capture Imphal from south has been shattered. Enemy threat to Kohima continues. Chinese forces attacked Wakawng in Mogaung Valley.

Assam Government's press note issued to-day says that "Cachar and Manipur areas were raided by a very small number of aircraft on the evening of April 3rd."

Air Vice-Marshal A. Dunston has been appointed Air Officer Commanding, R.A.F. Forces in Ceylon, and has taken up his duties.

7TH APR.—The Japanese are building up their strength in the Kohima area. The 17th Indian division has cleared its way to Imphal and is in a position to counter any threatened Jap offensive in this area.

8TH APR.—It is estimated that about 6,000 casualties have been inflicted on the Japanese on the Assam-Burma front. Threat to Kohima is imminent. Imphal is in a state of siege.

9TH APR.—A Jap counter-attack on the hill feature north of Imphal plan was repulsed. Japanese troops have captured Tamu. A counter-attack drove the Japanese forces which succeeded in getting to the outskirts of Kohima.

10TH APR.—Among other facts on the Burma-Assam front activity continued on the Arakan front on the 9th April; Jap pressure in the Kohima area continued. Allied aircraft bombed Rangoon and other places.

It is officially announced that two large enemy blockade-runners or supply ships scuttled in the Indian Ocean after being intercepted by Allied forces.

Sir Feroz Khan Noon, India's representative on the War Cabinet, reached England.

11TH APR.—On the Arakan front enemy resistance stiffened during the 10th April, says to-day's Allied Communiquè. In the Imphal area, they maintained contact from the south with Allied troops. In the Kohima area the Jap pressure has been maintained. Chinese troops have captured Wakawng in the Mogaung Valley.

Colonel Knox, United States Secretary of the Navy, told a press conference at Washington, that he was confident that the British forces in India would be able to halt the Japanese drive near Imphal.

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RUSSIA AND FINLAND

4TH APR.—Russians captured Hotin. Most of Tarnapol was in Soviet hands.

5TH APR.—Soviet forces captured Razdelnaya.

Dr. Zuho Passikivi, the Finnish peace envoy, is reported to have returned to resume Finland-Russia peace negotiations.

6TH APR.—Soviet troops captured several strong points including *Skala*.

7TH APR.—The Red Army has captured Orgeev and several other centres.

8TH APR.—The Red Army has reached the Czechoslavak-Rumanian frontier. The Russian forces had forced the river Pruth north of Jassy. Odessa has been isolated. Sereth has been occupied by the Russians. Dr. Benes has sent greetings to M. Stalin on the Red Army's approach to Czechoslovakia.

9TH APR.—The battle for Czechoslovakia has now opened along the crests of the Carpathian passes. Savage fighting is taking place on the frontier.

10TH APR.—The Soviet troops have captured *Odessa*, the most important port in the Black Sea. The Russians have captured more than 200 inhabited localities in Rumania including Lagra and Zahorna. They have cut the Jassy-Pascany Railway line. The Russian offensive against Crimea has begun.

11TH APR.—Russian forces have advanced about 30 kilometres in Crimea after capturing Zhankoi. Other important places captured by the Soviet troops include *Kerch* and *Paxani*.

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ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

4TH APR.—The Garig'iano Valley to-day was the scene of artillery duel between the Allies and the enemies. Patrol clashes occurred on all fronts.

5TH APR.—German attempt to recapture Monte Marrone has been repulsed.

United States bombers from the Mediterranean raided Ploesti, the centre of Rumanian oilfields.

6TH APR.—All the railway lines down Italy supplying the German front have been dislocated as a result of Allied air bombings, it is announced. Patrols were active on all fronts.

7TH APR.—Allied patrols inflicted casualties on both the Fifth and Eighth Army main fronts and in the Fifth Army Allied Bridgehead.

8TH APR.—On the main Fifth and Eighth Army fronts patrol clashes occurred and artillery was active. On the main Fifth Army Allied Bridgehead an American combat patrol established a strong point.

9TH APR.—Numerous patrol clashes occurred.

10TH APR.—Casualties were inflicted on the enemy by New Zealand troops who attacked two strong points. Several enemy tanks were destroyed by artillery in Tyrrhenian sea sector of the main front. Allied patrols and artillery were active on all fronts.

11TH APR.—British troops of the Fifth Army, Allied Bridgehead force and Italian troops on the main front repulsed small enemy attacks. Allied forces of the Fifth Army took a few prisoners.

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VICHY, FREE FRANCE AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

4TH APR.—General de Gaulle becomes the titular chief of the French Armed forces. A special meeting of the French Liberation Committee has come to this decision.

Bucharest and Budapest were heavily bombed by the Allies.

5TH APR.—Cologne and Pas De Calais were attacked by the Allied aircraft.

Mr. Eden informed the Commons that it was naturally not the intention of the British or American Governments to have anything to do with the "renegade authorities of Vichy".

6TH APR.—German air repair plants at Toulouse were attacked by Allied bombers.

7TH APR.—General Giraud has resigned.

8TH APR.—General Giraud has been appointed Inspector-General of the French Army and Military Adviser to the National Committee of Liberation.

It is reported that at least 80,000 Frenchmen and women have been shot since the armistice.

9TH APR.—U.S. planes raided Posen, Tutow, Warnemunde and Marienburg in Poland.

10TH APR.—Aircraft factories and other military objectives in Brussels, in Belgium, Bourges, Pas de Calais in France were attacked by the Allied aircraft.

11TH APR.—Last night 900 British bombers attacked railway targets in France and Belgium. The places bombed were Ghent, Tours, Tergnier, Aulnoye and Laon.

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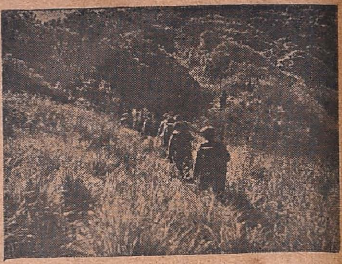
THE NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

4TH APR.—An air raid alert was sounded in western Switzerland to-day.

6TH APR.—Violent earthquake shocks were felt throughout Istanbul. The damage is presumed to be considerable.



Gurkha troops of the 10th Gurkha Rifles moving to the attack on Hill 52.

7TH APR.—Turkish deliveries of chrome ore to Germany are nearly three times greater at present than the monthly average in 1943.

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THE FAR EAST

4TH APRIL.—The Japanese envoy at Madrid left for Berlin to take part in an extraordinary meeting of Japanese envoys to Central European countries.

The United States Navy Secretary announced that United States submarines have sunk 14 more Jap ships in the Pacific. All Jap ships at Palau Woleai and Yat were sunk or damaged. The total Jap ships sunk or probably sunk by United States submarines since the start of the war is 667.

On Bougainville Island the Japanese have withdrawn at Empress Augusta Bay. Allied aircraft raided Truk, Wewak and Rabaul. Eleven more atolls in the Marshalls had been taken by the American forces. They are: Wotho, Uzae, Lae, Sile, Namu, Allinglapalap, Namorik, Ebon, Kili, Arno and Bikini.

5TH APR.—The entire Jap airforce at Hollandia has been wiped out.

The Allies have occupied Rambuto Island in the Admiralty groups.

6TH APR.—To-day's communiquè says that Moen and Dublon islands in Truk Atoll were attacked for the 13th time on April 3/4 night. Ponape, Rabaul, Wewak, Keopang and Lautem were also bombed by American aircraft.

7TH APRIL.—An announcement by Admiral Nimitz states that 25 Jap ships were sunk when Palau harbour was raided. Widespread Allied attacks on enemy positions in Wake Island, Ponape, etc., are reported.

9TH APRIL.—It is reported that Allied aircraft attacked Truk.

10TH APR.—Allied aircraft raided Hanoi in the French Indo-China, Weichowtao in the Tongking Gulf and Yulikan, in Hainan Island.

The Royal Australian Air Force is being expanded and is now thirty-fold stronger than it was before the war, stated the Federal Air Minister, Mr. Arthur S. Drakeford, to-day. He pointed out that this was being done although 90,000 men are being released from the army.

11TH APR.—To-day's Communiqué said that a major portion of New Britain is now in Allied hands. The Japanese are in full retreat from Central New Britain to Gazelle Peninsula. They have abandoned installations at Gasmata and Cape Hoskins.

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